

April 8, 2015 PARC Meeting Park and Recreation Manager's Report Item 5.B.

1. Jenna Smith began work on March 16 as our Recreation Supervisor, youth/family emphasis. Jenna came to us via Bowling Green, Kentucky and has great experience in providing recreation programs!
2. Registration for the summer programs began on Tuesday, March 17 at 9:00 a.m. All except two people who registered that day were able to get into their first choices of programs. The two that didn't were able to register for a second choice. An estimated \$100,000 in registrations were processed on the first day.
3. The City and Bloomington Youth Soccer Club were awarded a \$5,100 Hennepin County Youth Sports grant for three sets of soccer goals.
4. 2015 CenterPoint Energy Beltline Project - CenterPoint Energy is set to start construction on the 2015 Beltline Project (gas line replacement) on March 30. One crew will start on 98th Street just east of Penn Avenue and work to the east toward Logan Avenue, while the other crew will start on Lyndale Avenue at Mission Road and work to the north. This project will periodically impact access to the Bloomington Civic Plaza, Harrison Park, Hopkins Road trailhead and the MN River Valley trails.



5. InterCity Regional Trail Project - Xcel Energy will be starting power pole relocation to accommodate the new trail installation along Old Cedar Avenue on Mon, March 30. This pole relocation will occur on Old Cedar Avenue between 86th Street and 82nd Street and the poles will be moved to the new boulevard location. This new boulevard location will be shifted approximately 4-6' to the east of the existing boulevard when the trail is installed and therefore some of the new poles will be relocated slightly into the existing street pavement on the shoulder near the existing curb line until the curb line is relocated later this Spring. Traffic Control will be set up to protect the traveling public from the relocated poles until the trail Contractor begins curb relocation and installation of the new trail this Spring.
6. Old Cedar Avenue Bridge Rehabilitation Project - Bids were opened on March 13 and there was one bidder, Kraemer. As expected, the bid was higher than the estimate included in the feasibility report. The bid of \$14,472,515.80 is being checked and more information will be provided in CMI next week. Staff is developing funding alternatives and will be bringing these to Council for discussion.
7. Early Season Opening for City Golf Courses - Thanks to the unseasonably balmy temperatures, both Dwan and Hyland Greens golf courses opened for business in mid-March. The driving range at Hyland Greens opened on March 12, while both golf courses opened on March 13. This is by far the earliest that either course has opened. Previously, the earliest season opener was on March 20 in 2012. With the subsequent snowfalls, both courses shut back down and will reopen once the snow melts (which also happened in 2012.)
8. 2015 All City Volunteer Breakfast – PARC members are invited to attend the 2015 All City Volunteer Breakfast on Saturday, April 18 from 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. at the Knights of Columbus (1115 American Boulevard West). Over 800 volunteers are invited to this year's event. A complimentary buffet breakfast will be served and jazz music performed by Julie and Steve Kovacs. Please RSVP to Alison Evans for the event.
9. Local Ponds and Lack of Precipitation - Several residents have contacted Public Works concerning the low water levels in area ponds, most of which connected to the storm sewer system and receive surface water runoff. As of March 17, almost 90% of Minnesota is experiencing conditions of Moderate Drought according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. The Metro Area is about 3.5 inches below normal precipitation since October 2014. While the frozen soil was tempering the impacts of the lack of precipitation, the recent warm temperatures are starting to show conditions of a Moderate Drought. Longer term forecasts predict temperatures and some precipitation closer to normal, which will help slow down any effects of the dry conditions. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is monitoring conditions statewide and as of March 18 rated the lower half of the state at a high fire danger for wildfires. Engineering will be surveying several lakes and report the levels next week. For additional information see: <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/Home/StateDroughtMonitor.aspx?MN>

Requested Action

No Action Required.

Attachments: